



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

MCFRS has recently partnered with PEPCO, PGFD, and DCFD to produce a short film on electrical safety which identifies guidelines for safe operations involving electricity during emergency incidents. The film is currently under production and will be distributed to all Battalions for review upon completion. It will become a regional training tool for departments whose areas are serviced by PEPCO and possibly others outside of the region.

One of the topics depicted in the film deals specifically with meter safety. During structure fires or any other emergency when utilities need to be controlled, power should be removed at the main breaker (when attempting to isolate a specific circuit, individual breakers may be tripped). **Under no circumstances should meters be pulled!** If the electric service to a structure can not be controlled, the local power company should be notified.

Included below are pictures of a meter explosion that occurred May of 2005 when a PEPCO employee attempted to remove a meter for routine maintenance. The meter was of the three phase type that fed 480 volts to a commercial property here in Montgomery County. The employee had already removed the original meter without incident; as he inserted the replacement, the meter exploded resulting in electrical arcing. If the technician had not been wearing his personal protective equipment, he would have sustained second and third degree burns and quite possibly death. In the pictures he is wearing cotton/nomex weaved garments with class II rubber gloves rated for 20,000 volts.



DON'T PULL METERS

KEEP IT SAFE!

"DEDICATION TO EDUCATION"

